

**DISCLAIMER**

This biography is a rough draft and a work-in-progress.  
The research has not been completed, so there may be errors and omissions.

This record also lacks 1950 federal census data.  
Please return to Tuscania1918.org in the future to see if a revised and  
finalized version is available.

**Abbreviations:**

b = born

d = died

F: = Find A Grave ([www.findagrave.org](http://www.findagrave.org))

NOK = next-of-kin

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**TUSCANIA**

**King, Nera Don**  
**1893 KS – 1947 KS**



Helen Anna (Roehr) and Nera Don King  
Nera Don King – courtesy of Steven Schwartz of Renton WA

King Nera Don \*White Colored  
(Surname) (Christian Name) (Army Serial Number)

Residence Charleston Harper Oklahoma  
(street and House Number) (Town or City) (County) (State)

\*Enlisted \*R.A. \*N.G. \*E.R.C. \*Inducted at Buffalo, Oklahoma on \_\_\_\_\_, 1917  
Place of birth: Comanche City, Kansas Age or date of birth: Jan. 9, 1893  
Organizations served in, with dates of assignments and transfers: \_\_\_\_\_  
165th Depot Brigade, Camp Travis Detachment #1  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Grades, with date of appointment: 1917 Private  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Engagements: 2/5/1918 Torpedoed while aboard Tuscania; 7/1918 Champagne  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Wounds or other injuries recieved in action:  
Served overseas from +Jan 24, 1918to +\_\_\_\_\_, from +\_\_\_\_\_ to +\_\_\_\_\_  
Honorably discharged or demobilization\_\_\_\_\_, 19\_\_\_\_\_  
In view of occupation he was, on date of discharge, reported \_\_\_\_\_ percent disabled.  
Remarks \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Form No. 724-1 A. G. O. \*Strike out words not applicable  
November 22, 1919

*The Western Star*, June 27, 1947.

## **N. D. King, Veteran Of World War I, Dies**

### **Had Been in Ill Health For More Than a Year**

Funeral services for N. D. King, who passed away in [this city](#) Tuesday of last week, were held at 2:30 o'clock at the Methodist church last Friday and were in charge of Rev. Oscar Matthew, the pastor.

Mr. and Mrs. Gurney T. Hadley sang "Ivory Palaces" and "Let Me Rest on Thee," accompanied on the organ by Mrs. Hobart McMillen. Burial was in [Crown Hill cemetery](#). The active pall bearers were Ernest Harris, Felix Wasinger, Victor Willard, Donald Nicholas, John Barlow and Bob Lees, all veterans of World War II. The honorary pall bearers were H. H. Kopke, Clarence Demuth, F.J. Keesee, O. T. Logan, Clarence Whelpley, Charles W. Burt, Vern Cooper and George Thompson, all veterans of World War I.

Mr. King was buried with military honors, the firing squad being composed of George Sooter, Ronald Cullins, John Deewall, John Burt, Bob Chambers and Clair Parcel. Taps were sounded by Norman Butcher. Arlie Gray and Ralph Griffith acted as color bearers and Bob Whelpley and [Ross Beeley](#) as color guards.

## Obituary

Nera Don King, son of Robert and Nancy King, was born January 9, 1893, at Comanche City, Kans. He departed this life June 17, 1947, at his home in [Coldwater](#), Kans., at the age of 54 years, 5 months and 8 days.

He was united in marriage with Miss Helen Roehr November 3, 1920, at Greensburg, Kans. To this union four children were born - two sons and two daughters: [Herbert King](#) of St. Petersburg, Fla., Richard King, Coldwater, Mrs. Neva Brown of Coffeyville, Kans., and Darlene of Coldwater.

Don, as he was known to his many friends, volunteered for service in World War I and was registered in from Buffalo, Okla. He served with the 165th Infantry, Rainbow Division. He was wounded in battle July 14, 1918, at Champagne, Marne, and again narrowly escaped death later when the ship he was on was torpedoed in the North Sea by a German submarine. He was in the water several hours before he was rescued. While serving in the A. E. F. he was as many are, brought face to face with the reality of life and death. Here, he said, he renewed his faith in Christ and felt a change come into his life. During his recent illness he renewed his faith and consecration and left his testimony that all was well with him and his Lord.

His only regret was to be taken from his family and friends here on earth, but that he would wait with expectant faith to meet again in a better world.

Although his health was impaired and his recent illness was quite extended, he was a patient sufferer. He was never heard to complain, but was always appreciative of every little act of kindness.

Don has always made Coldwater his home, having lived on a farm near here until the family moved to Coldwater in 1936.

At the time of his passing he was the owner and operator of a recreation parlor in which he took great pride that he operated a clean place. Very recently he remarked that he was proud of the fact that he did not allow profanity, gambling or drinking in his place of business. Even though it might cost him the friendship of some

people he felt it was worth it. This speaks of the fine spirit of his life. For he was a lover of friends, and counted friendship above any other material value. He was also heard to say that he thought he had as many friends as any other man in the county, and that he prized them above material values. He was very fond of young people.

He was a member of the American Legion and the V. F. W. of Coldwater. At the age of seven he was baptized and united with the Presbyterian church. He was a man of his word and was a kind and loving father and husband.

He is survived by his wife and four children and by one brother, Foy King of Bartow, Fla.; two sisters, Mrs. Beatrice McBride of Los Angeles, Calif., and Mrs. Ada Kearns of Hopewell, Kans.; two grandchildren, Jody and Donnie Brown of Coffeyville, Kans.; and by many friends. The sorrowing relatives have the sincere sympathy of all.



From a "Tuscania" Passenger

One Comanche-co. boy, Donnie King, son of Bob King of this city, was a passenger on the Tuscania which was torpedoed a few weeks ago by the Germans. He escaped unhurt, and writes to his father as follows:

Somewhere abroad,  
February 22, 1918.

Dear father: I thought I would drop you a few lines to let you know that I arrived here safe. I came on the ship they call the Tuscania. I guess that you have read of it by this time. I am well and can eat all that I can get, so guess that is good. How are you by this time? Hope you are well. Have you seen any of the boys lately? Have any more of them left lately? How are Tom and Hester and Jim? Tell them I said "Hello, and good luck," for I have had good luck so far. Sure have seen lots

places on earth I guess. Say, Pap, that Atlantic is some river, ha ha! Don't know when I will get to come home, but when I do come I will spin you a few windies, ha, ha! Have you heard from Foy? Write and give him my address so I can get a letter from him. Well, Pap, tell all the boys that I am Jake till yet and would be glad to hear from them. Well, I can not say much, so will close for this time. So good bye and write soon.

Your son,  
NERA DON KING.

"Western Star (Coldwater KS) Friday 29 Mar 1918 p 8

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/421078915/?terms=%22nera%20don%20king%22&match=>

## World War I, Comanche County, Kansas

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*The Western Star*, August 23, 1918.

**Donnie King**, son of Bob King of this city, was probably the first Comanche-co. boy to be wounded at the front in northern France. Following is a copy of a letter his father received from him the first of this week:

*July 21, 1918*

*Dear Father,*

*I am dropping you a few lines to let you know that I am feeling very good, but can't say I am well this time. I was wounded the 16th of July in the chest and got some gas, too, but will be all right soon. I think the big fight started on the 14th and is still going on. The Dutch are getting what is coming to them. When I seen them coming over my bristles went up like Carlo's used to, and papa, you can tell the boys if they want to know, that I am getting my share of them. It is like hunting rabbits in the snow. Well, papa, what are you doing for yourself? I hope you are well, and having a good living. I don't know any more to tell you so will close for this time. Hoping to hear from you soon, I will say good bye.*

*As Ever, Your son,*

*Pvt. N. D. King, Co. F., 165 Inf., A. E. F.*

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### AMONG OUR BOYS.

Donnie King, son of Bob King of this city, when last heard from was in a hospital near the trenches in northern France recovering from a wound in the chest received several weeks ago. Read his letter published elsewhere in this paper. Donnie was born in this county and grew to young manhood here. He was a passenger on the transport "Tuscania," which was sunk by a

German submarine on February 5; he was among the fortunate ones who escaped drowning and who was rescued on the west coast of Ireland.



**From Donnie King.**

Bob King of this city recently received another letter from his son, Donnie. The letter is as follows:

August 20, 1918.

Dear Father: I am now dropping you a few lines to let you know that I am still o. k. Feeling very good today. I got up once a bit too soon and it made me sick so I had to go back

to bed again. I still have the shrapnel in my lung. I don't know if they are going to take it out or not, but think maybe they will. I have enough to carry anyhow, without carrying any extra lead. Ha! Ha! I have a good bed to lie in and plenty to eat. Everything is fixed up Jake here so you don't need to worry about me, for I'll show up in the round-up this fall. Ha! ha! dad, you ought to be a soldier for there are a lot of old maid nurses over here. They would sure take good care of you.

Well, pap, hoping you are well, I will close for this time. With best wishes and hoping to hear from you soon, from your son,

Pvt. DON KING,  
Co. F, 165 Inf., A. E. F.

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*October 5, 1918*

*Dear Father,*

*Well, here I am again trying to write you a few lines to let you know that all*

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*is well so far. I hope you are the same. I have been telling the boys that I have a father 71 years old who can dirty their back, and they look at me as though they thought I was lying. Ha, ha. I received your registered letter dated June 16 this morning, and I received one dated later that was not registered, so there is no use in it, I guess.*

*Say, Pap, did you ever receive the money I sent you - \$13.75. You have never said anything about it. If you did, let me know so that I won't have to hunt it up.*

*Well, I am still in the hospital, doing kitchen police here now. Am feeling very good, but had an awful cold and haven't gotten over it yet, but I will be all right soon. I am now in France, so if anyone wants to write to me you can give them my address.*

*Well, Pap, I don't know any more to write this time, so will close.*

*As ever, your son,  
N. D. King.*

A few days after Mr. King received the above letters he learned through a telegram to his son, Frank, of Buffalo, Okla., from the War Department in Washington that Donnie had returned to the trenches and that he had received another wound which appeared to be serious. Donnie surely is having his share of hospital experience in France.

## WOUNDED THE SECOND TIME

Bob King of this city has received word that his son, N. Don King, has been wounded a second time in the fighting in France. Some time ago the son was wounded and was sent to a hospital where he had been confined for a number of weeks. Recently his father received a letter from him, written from the hospital and dated October 5. And in a few days he received word that the son had again been wounded seriously on October 19. Don is with the famous Rainbow division as a member of the 165th Infantry.

"Coldwater (KS) Talisman" Thursday 31 Oct 1918 p 1

## World War I, Comanche County, Kansas

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*The Western Star*, November 1, 1918.

### From Our Soldiers and Sailors:

#### DONNIE KING

Last week Bob King of this city received two letters from his son, Donnie, who is still in a hospital in France, or was when he wrote last. We make the following quotations from the letters:

*September 17, 1918*

*Dear Father,*

*Well, here I am again trying to write you a few lines to let you know that I am all O.K. I have the bullet out of my lung now. They took it out over a week ago, and I am up and around now. Am feeling fine. Surely hope you are as well. I had a letter written ready to mail you, but they decided to operate on me, so I waited until now so that I could tell you how I came out. They said I cursed like a man six feet high, but you know it must have been a joke, for you know I never swear unless I get sore. Ha, ha. And I wasn't a bit mad that morning, for I had carried that thing long enough.*

*Well, pap, write and let me know what you are doing. I am a bit weak yet, so will quit for this time and write again as soon as I get stronger. So good bye.*

*With best wishes from your son,*

*Pvt. N. D. KING,*

*Co. F., 165th Inf., A. E. F.*

1930  
ENROLLMENT  
EX-SERVICE MAN OF THE WORLD WAR OR  
HIS WIDOW AND ORPHANS

ARMY ☒  
NAVY ☐  
MARINE ☐  
CORPS ☐  
(Check branch of service)

*Caldwaller*  
(Base of township, city or ward and city)  
*Comanche*  
(County)  
*Ed Heimert*  
(Assessor)

Name *King* *Nera* *Don*  
(Last) (First) (Middle)  
Address *Caldwaller* *Comanche*  
(Street) (City) (County)  
Widow's name  
(If veteran is deceased) (Last) (First) (Middle)  
Address  
(Street) (City) (County)  
Names and addresses of orphan children under 16 years of age  
  
  
Rank at discharge *Private*  
Organization *165 Inf 42nd Division*  
Wounded or injured (in service) or deceased? *In right lung*  
(State fully)  
  
Member of the American Legion? *yes*  
(Yes or no)  
If so, name and number of post *122 Caldwallter*  
If soldier died in Kansas, give date and place  
  
REMARKS:  
  
NOTE.—THREE COPIES OF THIS FORM WILL BE FURNISHED THE ADJUTANT GENERAL OF KANSAS BY COUNTY CLERKS.

Kansas, U.S., Enrollment of World War I Veterans, 1930 for Nera Don King

Volume 07: Cloud, Coffey, Comanche

[https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/2955/images/40851\\_620305176\\_0899-00580?pId=27101](https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/2955/images/40851_620305176_0899-00580?pId=27101)



ORIGINAL *file*

**APPLICATION FOR HEADSTONE OR MARKER**  
(Please make out and return in duplicate)

**CHECK TYPE REQUIRED**  
(See Instructions attached)

☐ UPRIGHT MARBLE HEADSTONE  
☐ UPRIGHT GRANITE HEADSTONE  
☒ FLAT MARBLE MARKER  
☒ FLAT GRANITE MARKER  
☐ BRONZE MARKER (NOTE RESTRICTIONS)

**ENLISTMENT DATE**  
19 Sept 1917

**DISCHARGE DATE**  
3 January 1919

**SERIAL No.**  
25 14 71

**PENSION No.**  
C-374 769

**EMBLEM (Check one)**  
☒ CHRISTIAN  
☐ HEBREW  
☐ NONE

**NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial)**  
King, Nera Don

**STATE**  
Oklahoma

**RANK**  
Private

**COMPANY**  
Co. 4-08-Gas-Gene-Det

**U. S. REGIMENT, STATE ORGANIZATION, AND DIVISION**  
Co. 4-08-Gene-Det.

**DATE OF BIRTH (Month, Day, Year)**  
9 January 1893

**DATE OF DEATH (Month, Day, Year)**  
June 17, 1947

**LOCATION (City and State)**  
Coldwater, Kansas

**NEAREST FREIGHT STATION (City and State)**  
Coldwater, Kansas

**POST OFFICE ADDRESS OF CONSIGNEE**  
Coldwater, Kansas

**NAME OF CEMETERY**  
Crown Hill Cemetery

**SHIP TO (I CERTIFY THE APPLICANT FOR THIS STONE HAS MADE ARRANGEMENTS WITH ME TO TRANSPORT THE STONE FROM THE FREIGHT STATION TO THE CEMETERY)**  
W. Misenhelter

**DO NOT WRITE HERE**

**FOR VERIFICATION**  
JUL 15 1947

**ORDERED**  
MIAMI GR & MBL CO. OHIO 13 OCT 1947

**B/L**  
3221359

**SHIPPED**  
11-14-47

**APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE**  
Mrs. Helen King

**DATE OF APPLICATION**  
8 July 1947

**ADDRESS (Street, City, State)**  
Coldwater, Kansas

**IMPORTANT—Complete Reverse Side**

00MG FORM REV 6 NOV 45 623

16-11453-5 GPO

KING NERA DON

Pvt Co 4 2 Bn 164 DB

Coldwater Kans

sn 251 471

Born 1/9/93

Enl 9/19/17

Died 6-17-47

Dis 1/3/19

X C 374 769

K

A 1 639 379

T 136 168 F

R

Cl 736 465

I

U. S. VETERANS BUREAU  
MAIL AND RECORDS  
Form 7202—Rev. Sept., 1935

INDEX CARD

2-19900

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS1R-DZQG-I?cc=2968245&personUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AQR32-XG2M>



Nera D. King has recently been transferred to a nearby detention camp, for a two weeks stay before he is assigned to some special vocational work.

News from Camp Travis, Waco TX – “Harper County Journal” (Buffalo OK) Friday 11 Jan 1918 p 1

On Monday Bob King of this city received a letter from his son, N. D. King, or Don King as he was known here, stating that he too had been wounded. He received his wound July 16, probably in the heavy fighting in Marne salient, as it is known that his regiment was in that action. He is a member of company F, 165th Infantry. The following is quoted from his letter, which was dated July 21:

“I was wounded the 16th of July in the chest, and got some gas too, but I will be all right soon, I think. The big fight started the 14th, and is still going on, and I tell you the Dutch are getting what is coming to them. When I saw them coming over my bristles went up. And, Pop, you can tell the boys if they want to know that I got my share of them. It is like hunting rabbits in the snow. Ha, ha.”

“Coldwater (KS) Talisman” Thursday 22 Aug 1918 p 1

R. A. King received a message today stating that his brother, Nera E. King, who enlisted in the infantry at Buffalo, Oklahoma, had been seriously wounded in the trenches on the western front.

"Dodge City (KS) Daily Globe" Friday 25 Oct 1918 p 3

Tuesday's Wichita Eagle showed the names of two Comanche county boys in the casualty list. The name of Ernest C. Wood of Wilmore was among those missing in action. And the name of Nera D. (Donnie) King, son of Bob King of Coldwater, was among those who had been severely wounded in action. This is the second time Donnie has been wounded.

"Protection (KS) Post" Thursday 31 Oct 1918 p 4

## Letters From Soldier Boys



### "Don" King's Experiences

Nera King, better known here as "Don", has written the following interesting story of his war experience, which is mighty interesting:

I was called to the service of the United States on Sept. 19, 1917, and was sent to Camp Travis, Tex., where I was trained for three and a half months, and I was picked from the company and put in a replacement detachment for over seas and on the 10th day of January, 1918, entrained at Hoboken, New Jersey. We were on the train five days and nights, and on the 22nd day of January we sailed for Liverpool, England, on the S. S. Tuscania, a

from one of the big beams and tied it to a small life raft and let it over board and then went down the rope until it was loaded then cut the rope and did our best to get away from the big boat. We worked for about three hours and got about three hundred yards from the ship when she went down at 9:30. We were picked up by a small patrol boat and landed in Lame, Ireland 45 miles from the sunken ship. We landed there at 5 o'clock in the morning, and the first thing I saw was a Ford. Here they took us to hotels and treated us fine. We were there about one week and then sailed again for England and on the way there two mines were taken from in front of our ship, but we landed safely and stayed there till all the survivors were gathered up, and then we

British transport. We layed over one day in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and there we saw the city that had been destroyed by the explosion of an ammunition ship, which was our first sight of destruction, and the evening of the 5th of February we came in sight of land on the other side, which pleased us very much, tho we saw life boats floating out to sea. There had been a boat sunk there at 4 o'clock. We went on feeling very safe at the sight of land while we were in a very dangerous place, and just as it was getting dark we went down to eat our supper, and just as the first half had eaten we got orders to get on deck till 8:30. I got on deck where I belonged and in just a moment a torpedo hit our ship on the star board side. It was then 5:45. The lights all went out as soon as it hit but there was not much confusion. Our boats were lowered as soon as possible, but some of them broke loose. The one I was to take got away so we cut a rope

sailed again for France and landed safely on the 26th day of March, and took the train for a replacement camp, where I was put in the 42nd division which was holding a sector of trenches in Alsace-Lorraine.

My first trouble with Fritz was there. We were building some wire entanglements when all at once the big shells began to stick in the mud in a few yards of us, so we moved and they followed us; but there were no men killed that day. I begun to get used to battle in that sector, while we never lost many men, so when the Germans were preparing for the last big drive on Paris we were picked to go down there and help stop them. We were in the trenches for about a week before they finally came over. They shelled us for three hours with gas and everything they had, so I got a small bit of gas, which made me awfully sick, but I stayed with it and as soon as it got day light the Dutch began to come in on all sides, but they found men

in front of them that they had never met before. We lost several men there but the Dutch never got to Paris. I had two days and nights hard fighting there and in the evening of July 16 I got a piece of shell in the right lung which put me out of the fight. I went to the hospital and the first night the Germans bombed the place and the next night they shot it full of holes with their machine guns and killed a few men there, but I never got hurt any more. I sure did want to get out of there and did the next day. I went to a hospital further behind the lines. There, I stayed till I was able to travel and I was sent to Base 19 at Vichy, where I had the shell removed from my lung and I was just getting in shape to take another smash at the Dutch when the armistice was signed.

I was still in class B-2, so the the first ship that sailed from France to U. S. A. I got to come home. We sailed from Brest December 8, and I landed in Hoboken, New Jersey, Dec. 16, 1918, and was discharged at Camp Funston, Kansas, Jan. 3, 1919.

NERA D. KING.

The "Dutch" enemy are the "Deutsch" (Germans) – "Buffalo (OK) Republican" Thursday 23 Jan 1919 p 1

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/586054881/?terms=%22nera%20d%20king%22&match=1>



Don King arrived in Coldwater the first of the week for a visit with his father, Bob King. He saw service in France with the famous Rainbow division as a member of the 165th Infantry. Before reaching France he was shipwrecked on the torpedoed Tuscania off the Irish coast and during the fighting in France was twice wounded. His service record is a strenuous one and one of which any man might well be proud.

"Coldwater (KS) Talisman" Thursday 9 Jan 1919 p 7

## Notice For Publication

Department of Interior, U. S. Land Office at Guthrie, Oklahoma, March 19th, 1919.

Notice is hereby given that Nera D. King of Charleston, Oklahoma, who on February 5th, 1916 made Homestead Entry No. 010483, for SE $\frac{1}{4}$  of SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , Sec. 32, Twp. 28 North, Range 20 W. I. M. has filed notice of intention to make Final Three Year Proof to establish claim to the land above described, before the County Judge of Harper Co. Oklahoma, at Buffalo, Oklahoma, on the 9th day of May, 1919.

Claimant names as witnesses: Fred Hornbeck, Alfred Love, George F. Crissup, Harry Ferbrache, all of Charleston, Oklahoma.

4-4-4t

J. Y. Callahan, Register.

"Harper County Journal" (Buffalo OK) Friday 11 Apr 1919 p 3

### A DOUBLE WEDDING

A double wedding occurred at Greensburg, Kansas, on Wednesday, November 3, when Miss Helen Roehr and Mr. N. Don King, both of Coldwater, and Miss Maude Winn of Ashland and Mr. William C. Butler of Englewood were joined in marriage by Judge Reed. Miss Roehr is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Roehr of northeast of Coldwater and Mr. King is the son of Robert King of Coldwater. He recently returned from army service in France. Miss Winn is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Winn of Comanche county and has made her home with Mr. and Mrs. Henry Rogers of Bluff Creek for the past three years.—Ashland Clipper.

Marriage of Nera Dona King & Helen Roehr – “Protection (KS) Post” Thursday 11 Nov 1920 p 1 – <https://www.newspapers.com/image/421094448/?article=5d187855-ca01-4f42-8a9f-ee59112822ee&focus=0.49582806,0.38146147,0.6425599,0.5248513&xid=3398>

**COLDWATER —** Helen A. King, 86, retired practical nurse, died Sunday, Sept. 20, 1987. Service 10 a.m. Wednesday, United Methodist Church, Coldwater.

Survivors: sons, Herbert of St. Petersburg, Fla., Richard of Coldwater; daughters, Neva Markham of Logan, Darlene Hilt of Hutchinson; brother, Alfred Roehr of Hutchinson; sister, Irene Merrifield of Artesia, N.M.; 11 grandchildren; 22 great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren. Memorials have been established with the Comanche County Hospital and United Methodist Church elevator fund. Hatfield-Prusa Funeral Home.

Obituary of wife Helen Anna Roehr King – “Wichita (KS) Eagle” Monday 21 Sep 1987 p 16

Died at the Hotel Bucklin at 4:15 a m., Wednesday, August 3, 1904, James M. King of Protection, Kas., aged 30 years and 5 days. Mr. King was brought to Bucklin last Friday, July 29, suffering with Brights disease and placed under the care of Dr. W. W. Pritchard but the disease has progressed too far and proved fatal. The remains were taken Wednesday afternoon to his home at Protection. It was the intention of his friends to bury him at Avila, some sixteen miles southeast of Protection. He leaves a wife and four small children to mourn his loss.

Brother James? – “Dodge City (KS) Globe” Thursday 4 Aug 1904 p 8

## Services Held For R. F. King

Robert Frank King, son of Robert and Nancy King, was born November 4, 1882, near Buford, Ky., and died last Wednesday, at his home in Buffalo.

Mr. King had been in ill health for some time, having entered the Woodward Memorial hospital on October 23 and later receiving treatment at Hardtner, Kan. After leaving Hardtner, he returned to his home in Buffalo where he remained until his death.

He moved from Kentucky in 1885 and went to Commanche county, Kan., and in 1909 moved to Harper county.

On May 24, 1908, he was united in marriage to Reba Graham. They were the parents of one child, Donald, who preceded his father in death on August 28, 1940.

Mr. King became a member of the Christian church in 1920 and served on the church board of deacons for a number of years.

In 1923, he became a Mason and diligently performed his duties in that capacity. He was also a member of the O.E.S., serving in the offices of that organization.

He is survived by his wife, two brothers, Foy E. King of Bartow, Fla., and Don King of Coldwater, Kan., and two sisters, Mrs. Beatrice McBride, Los Angeles, Calif., and Mrs. Ada Kearns, Hopewell, Kan.

Funeral services were conducted at the Christian church in Buffalo Friday afternoon. Burial was made at the High Point cemetery with the Masonic lodge in charge of services at the cemetery. Byron Mason Funeral home was in charge of arrangements.

### **Poulton--King.**

Mr. J. B. Poulton, of Clark county and Miss Louie V. King, of this vicinity, were married at the residence of Mrs. McBride, in this city, Monday evening, Dec. 6th, Probate Judge Griffith pronouncing the ceremony.

The wedding was a very quiet affair, only a few relatives of the bride and groom being present.

The bride is the eldest daughter of Robt. King, Esq., and is well-known as one of Comanche's corps of teachers, and has been a resident of the county since its early settlement. The groom is not so well-known here, but is foreman of the Grimes cattle ranch in Clark county. The wedding was rather in the order of a surprise. We understand that Mr. and Mrs. Poulton will make their home in Clark county. THE STAR extends congratulations.

Marriage of sister Louie Verta King to Jesse Black Poulton – "Western Star" (Coldwater KS) Saturday  
11 Dec 1897 p 4

The many Atchison friends of Miss Gertie Evans and Foy E. King will be very much surprised and greatly delighted to learn they are married. Miss Gertie Evans is the sister of Fred Evans and for some time has been living in Kansas City. Before leaving Atchison she was employed in the offices of the Blish, Mize & Silliman Hardware company. Foy E. King was employed as chief clerk at the Byram hotel until several weeks ago when he moved to Kansas City where he is now employed as clerk at the Hotel Moore. Mr. and Mrs. King were married at Olathe, Kas., December 24, and are now living in Kansas City in an apartment. Mrs. King has numerous friends here and is very generally admired for her good qualities and her many womanly attributes. Mr. King also is popular in Atchison. Those who know him hold him in very high esteem as he is a very trustworthy, deserving young man.

Marriage of brother Foy Edward King to Gertrude Evans on 24 Dec 1916 in Olathe, Johnson KS –  
“Atchison (KS) Weekly Globe” Thursday 1 Mar 1917 p 6



## High Prices Close Meat Packing Plant

BARTOW [Special] Manager Foy King announced yesterday that Kingan and Company's meat packing plant here will close "indefinitely" at the close of business tomorrow.

"The company has been losing money on the Bartow branch since last Summer, King said. "We have found that we can't buy Florida cattle at present-day prices and sell them at a profit."

No final decision has been made as to whether or not the packing plant—which is one of the larger plants in Florida, employing approximately 100 persons—will reopen or not.

King said he will no longer be connected with the company and that he will remain in Bartow at least for the next few months.

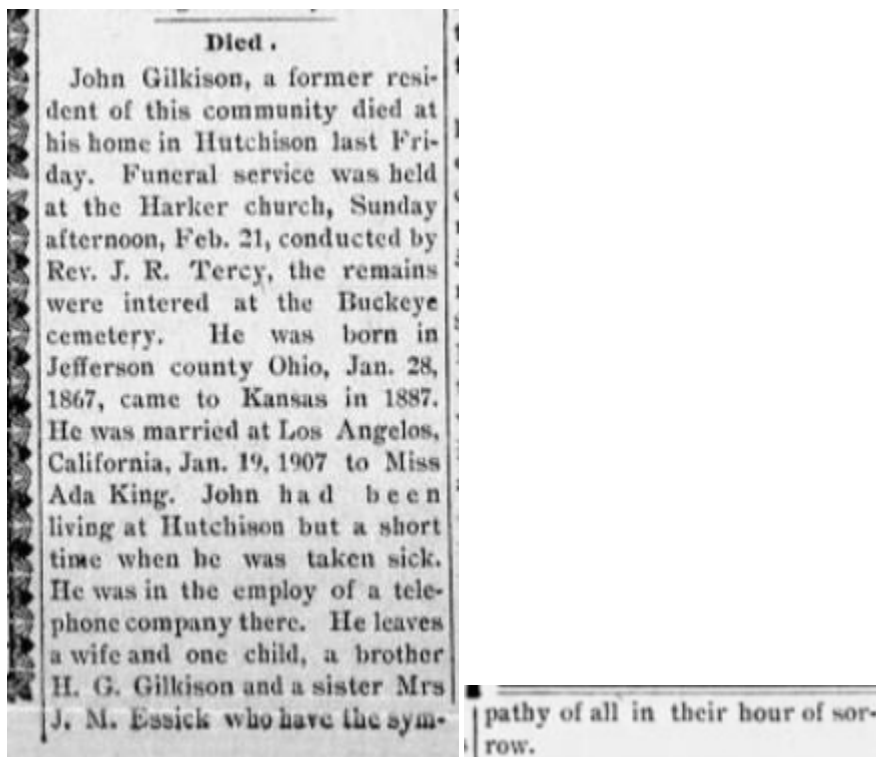
Brother Foy Edward King was employed at the Kingan meat plant in 1942 when he registered for the WWII draft – "Orlando (FL) Sentinel" Thursday 12 Jul 1951 p 9



Left: Daughter Neva Pauline King Brown Markham - <https://ancestors.familysearch.org/en/L2WH-8L6/neva-pauline-king-1924-2010> - son Richard Keith King – Find A Grave 125596443



Left: Sister Effie Beatrice King McBride - <https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/tree/6002498/person/6787139828/media/f65de0b6-4113-48b9-8c0e-4e1c2cd2e268> -  
 Right: Effie with her husband George Wadoms McBride - [https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/tree/33560967/person/18517505075/media/89998467-dab5-44d0-83e9-5041e70180ae?\\_phsrc=hFB22303&\\_phstart=successSource](https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/tree/33560967/person/18517505075/media/89998467-dab5-44d0-83e9-5041e70180ae?_phsrc=hFB22303&_phstart=successSource)



Obituary of sister Ada's 1<sup>st</sup> husband (?), John S. Gilkison – "Kanopolis (KS) Journal" Thursday 25 Feb 1909 p 5

**Name: Nera Don King**

Name variations: Don King, Donnie King

Military:

On Tuscania: Camp Travis Det. 1, 165th Depot Brigade - private

Serial number: 251,471

Entered service from: Buffalo, Harper OK

Sailed on "Tuscania" as: Nera D. King

Next-of-kin on "Tuscania": brother R.F. King, Buffalo OK

Returned from war on: Leviathan" Dec 1918

Sailed on return ship as: Nera D. King

Next-of-kin on return ship & rank: father Robert F. King, Coldwater KS (pvt, Co. F, 165th Inf.)

World War I draft registration (1917): as Nera Don King (indexed as Wera Dan) - b. 9 Jan 1893

Comanche KS; res: Charleston, Harper OK. Farming for self, farm near Charleston KS.

Single. Claimed exemption from draft: "physical disability" – medium height & build.

National Tuscania Survivors Association (1939 roster): Coldwater KS

World War II draft registration (1942): as Nera Don King - b. 9 Jan 1893 Comanche City KS; res:

Coldwater, Comanche KS. NOK Frank King, Buffalo OK. Self-employed at Coldwater,

Comanche KS. Card signed N.D. King. Height: 5'10 ½" – weight: 176 lbs.

Veterans Administration Military Index:

Enlisted 9 Sep 1917

Discharged 3 Jan 1919

Address: Coldwater KS

Rank/unit: private, Co. 4, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 164<sup>th</sup> Depot Brigade

Birth & death:

Born: 9 Jan 1893 Coldwater, Comanche City KS (born on the day his mother died)

Died: 17 Jun 1947 Coldwater, Comanche KS (at his home, of cancer)

Find A Grave record: 68917479, presence on Tuscania indicted in flower

Burial location: Coldwater, Comanche KS

Cemetery: Crown Hill

Tombstone: veteran flat: Oklahoma Pvt 165 Inf 42 Div WWI

Father: Robert ("Bob") King, 22 Aug 1847 Estill Co. KY – 4 Sep 1936 Comanche Co. KS. Son of Allen King & Margaret Duncan Cooper (according to Find A Grave) or Samuel King & Rachel Margaret Lowe (according to an Ancestry.com family tree). Buried in Avilla Cemetery, Protection, Comanche KS.

Find A Grave: 68917479

Mother: Nancy D. Jarnigan King, 16 Nov 1859 Ohio Co. KY – 9 Jan 1893 Comanche Co. KS. Daughter of William Howard Jarnigan & Mary Bell Jones. Although obituaries place Robert & Nancy in Avilla Cemetery, her Find A Grave record notes she also has a tombstone in Crown Hill Cemetery next to her son, Nera. Died from complications of childbirth; died the day Nera was born. Buried in Avilla Cemetery, Protection, Comanche KS – or – Crown Hill Cemetery, Coldwater, Comanche KS.

Find A Grave: 68652188 (Avilla) and 141861858 (Crown Hill)

Parents' marriage: 11 Nov 1875 McLean Co. KY

Spouse: Helen Anna Roehr King, 23 Jul 1901 Bushton, Rice KS – 20 Sep 1987 Coldwater, Comanche KS. Daughter of Henry E. Roehr (1876 WI – 1950) & Lillie A. Charles (1876 IL – 1954). Her parents came in a covered wagon to Comanche Co. KS in 1913, settling on land 6 miles northwest of Coldwater. She had 9 siblings. After Nera's death, she became a practical nurse, even delivering babies if necessary. When Comanche Hospital opened 14 Aug 1950 she began working the night shift there. She retired 1 Dec 1971, the only hospital employee who had worked there since it opened. Buried in Crown Hill Cemetery, Coldwater, Comanche KS.

Spouse Find A Grave: 68917443

Marriage: 3 Nov 1920 Greensburg, Kiowa KS. Officiant was probate judge A.N. Reed. They had a double wedding ceremony, with Maude Winn marrying William C. Butler.

#### Children:

- Herbert Floyd King, 31 Jul 1921 Coldwater, Comanche KS – 13 Oct 1997 St. Petersburg, Pinellas FL. Served in US Air Force in WWII. Buried in Crown Hill Cemetery, Coldwater, Comanche KS. F: 68917702
- Neva Pauline King Brown Markham, 20 Jan 1924 Coldwater, Comanche KS – 17 Jun 2010 Wilmore, Comanche KS. Married 12 Apr 1943 to Joseph August Brown (1922-1995, F: 51471871). He is buried with his wife Dolores Elaine Wampole (1937-2018) whom Joseph married in 1979. Neva & Joseph had a son, Joseph A. Brown III. – Resident of Coffeyville KS in Jun 1947. - Married Amos Edward ("Bud") Markham (1934-1991, F: 49133136) in 1970. – Died at Lakewood Senior Living of Pratt. Buried in Crown Hill Cemetery, Coldwater, Comanche KS. F: 130305091
- Nada Darlene King Hilt, 28 Mar 1931 KS - . Resident of Coldwater KS in Jun 1947. With surname Hilt, resident of Coldwater KS in Mar 2014.
- Richard Keith ("Rich") King, 21 Nov 1932 Coldwater, Comanche KS – 5 Mar 2015 Wichita, Sedgwick KS. Married in Buttermilk, Comanche KS on 1 Jan 1953 to Paula Arnette McCay (1934-2004, F: 68917096). Lived in WY, Pueblo CO & OK before returning to Coldwater KS, where he had been born on a farm, in 1973. Served in the US Army in the Korean War from 1951-1951. Rancher & cowboy; owner/operator of King's Boot Repair (Coldwater KS). Buried in Crown Hill Cemetery, Coldwater, Comanche KS. F: 125596443

Siblings: Nera was the youngest of 8 children. His mother Nancy died on the day he was born.

- Louie Verta ("Lou") King Poulton, 27 Nov 1875 KY – 23 Sep 1899 Comanche Co. KS. Married 6 Dec 1897 in Comanche Co. KS to Jesse Black Poulton (1869 IL – 1930 KS). Buried with her infant son (F: 68843613), who died the same day. Buried in Avilla Cemetery, Protection, Comanche KS. F: 68843591
- James P. King, Aug 1876 (or 1875?) KY – 3 Aug 1904 Comanche Co. KS. The 1880 census records him as James P. King, age 5. But appears to be from Ancestry.com & obituary James N. ("Bud") King, 1874 KY – 1904 Bucklin, Ford KS. Husband of Ella B. Baker (1872-1960, F: 21542940), daughter of Andrew & Martha Baker, whom he married 11 May 1896 in Comanche Co. KS. The Baker family is the 1900 census entry prior to the entry of James N. (25 KY, Aug 1874) & wife Ella B. (28 KS, Jun 1872) & sons Roy (3 KS, Feb 1897 & Lee (2 KS, May 1898) in Valley, Comanche KS where James is a farmer. In his death notice, James is listed as the father of 4 children. Buried in Protection Cemetery, Protection, Comanche KS. F: 21542947

- Effie Beatrice King McBride, 30 Mar 1878 Hartford, Ohio Co. KY – 15 Mar 1961 Los Angeles Co. CA. – Effie married George Wadoms McBride (1876-1939) on 30 Sep 1897 in Wichita, Sedgwick KS. - In the 1910 census, Effie (32 KY, parents b. KY) lived with husband George McBride (33 OH, father b. OH, mother b. MD), their 2 daughters & 1 son in Odee, Meade KS. They had been married 12 years; Effie had given birth to 3 children, 3 of whom were living. - Resident of Los Angeles CA in Jun 1947.
- Rufus Andrew King, 10 Oct 1880 Buford, Ohio Co. KY – 22 Nov 1939 Coldwater, Comanche KS. Husband of Pauline Harriet Saunders (1889-1971, F: 14107313) whom he married in 1914. Pauline later married Simon Hayes (1874-1955) & is buried with him. – In 1915, Rufus becomes a lumberyard manager in Grenville, Union NM; he visits from Grenville NM in Feb 1923 when his father is ill. - Rufus is buried in Crown Hill Cemetery, Coldwater, Comanche KS. F: 68917611
- Robert Frank King, May 1883 KY – 8 Jan 1947 Buffalo, Beckham (Harper?) OK. Married Reba W. Graham (1889-1984) on 24 May 1908 in Buffalo OK. A resident of Buffalo OK in WWI. Buried in High Point Cemetery, Buffalo, Harper OK according to his obituary but not on Find A Grave as of 8 Jun 2021 (cemetery is 61% photographed).
- Ada D. King Gilkison Kearns, Mar 1885 KS – 1960 Pratt Co. KS. Resident of Hopewell KS in Jun 1947. – Married 19 Jun 1907 in CA to John S. Gilkison (also found as Gilkinson). “Los Angeles (CA) Evening Post” Wednesday 19 Jun 1907 – marriage license: John S. Gilkinson, 40 & Ada D. King, 22, both of Los Angeles CA. They had a daughter Edna Grace Gilkison (later Mrs. Benjamin Hodson Jr.), born 9 Aug 1908 Kanopolis, Ellsworth KS & died 12 Feb 1997. John Gilkison, 28 Jan 1867 OH – 19 Feb 1909 KS, is buried in Buckeye Cemetery, Kanopolis, Ellsworth KS, F: 59344479. – Married 13 Mar 1912 to Amos Moody Kearns (1880-1947, F: 10704939). “Kinsley (KS) Graphic” Thursday 21 Mar 1912 p 6 – A.M. Kearns & Mrs. Ada Gilkinson, both of Haviland KS, were married by Judge Blanchard at the courthouse on Wednesday last week. - Buried in Hopewell Cemetery, Hopewell, Pratt KS. F: 10704937
- Foy Edward King, 15 Feb 1890 (also found as 1889) Coldwater, Comanche KS – 27 Aug 1960 Polk Co. FL. Husband of Gertrude Evans (1890-1981). Resident of Indianapolis, Marion IN when he registered for the WWII draft (1942). Resident of Bartow FL in Jun 1947. Buried in Wildwood Cemetery, Bartow, Polk FL. F: 37741291

Notes: <https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/details/L6QH-BDR>

Pre-war:

Wartime:

Although he claimed on his WWI draft registration on 5 Jun 1917 that he had a “physical disability,” Nera went to war anyway.

Nera said he was in a life raft with 30 others for several hours before they were rescued.

Wounded 16 Jul 1918 at Champagne, Marne, France, being gassed & wounded in the chest. As of 29 Aug 1918 he still had shrapnel in his lung; doctors were debating about removing it. By 17 Sep 1918 Nera reported home that a bullet had been taken out of his lung the previous week. On 5 Oct 1918 he was still hospitalized, but doing K.P. duty in the kitchen.

He was wounded again on 12 Oct 1918.

"Miami (OK) Daily Record-Herald" Tuesday 29 Oct 1918 p 2 – Pvt. Nera D. King, Buffalo OK, wounded severely

Post-war:

In 1936 Nera & his family moved into the town of Coldwater KS from the farm.

At the time of his death, Nera was the owner/operator of a recreation parlor where he did not allow profanity, gambling or drinking. He was a member of the American Legion & VFW of Coldwater.

Obituary:

Social Security number:

Censuses:

1880 Bartlett, Ohio Co. KY

Robert King, 31 KY, farm land, parents b. TN

Nancy D., 21 IN, keeping house, parents b. KY

James P., 5 KY, at home

Luverta V., 3 KY, at home

Effie B., 2 KY, at home

1900 Alva, Woods KS

Robert King, 53 KY, Mar 1847, widow, parents' birthplaces unknown, day labor

Ruphus P., 19 KY, Apr 1881

Frank R., 17 KY, May 1883

Foi E., 10 KS, Feb 1890

Nero D., 8 NS, Jan 1892

[for the sons: father b. KY, mother's birthplace unknown]

1910 Sitka, Clark KS – appears to be him, but parents' birthplaces are wrong

Donnie P. King, 17 KS, single, father b. OH, mother b. IL, servant, farm laborer, general farm

On farm of:

Phillip V. Randall, 31 IA & wife Sibyl L. Randall, 22 IL & their infant daughter

1905 KS state census – Comanche Co. – as of 1 Mar 1905

Frank King, 21

Foy King, 14

Don King, 12

1920 Coldwater, Comanche KS

Donnie King, 27 KS, single, parents b. IN, hired man, laborer, farm

On farm of:

Perry A. Johnston (58 OH) & Mary M. Johnston (48 IA), the son (18) & daughter (16), farmer, general



1925 KS state census – Avilla, Comanche KS

Don King, 32 KS, farmer, farm

Helen, KS, housewife

Herbert, KS

Neva, KS

[the ages for Helen, Herbert & Neva – which are on the next page after Don's entry – are obscured/faint. A "3" can be read after Helen & Herbert, but not the initial number.

1930 Coldwater, Comanche KS

N.D. King, 37 KS, father b. KY, mother b. IN, age 27 at 1<sup>st</sup> marriage, farmer, general farm, WWI veteran

Helen A., 28 KS, father b. WI, mother b. US, age 19 at 1<sup>st</sup> marriage

Herbert, 8 KS

Neva, 6 KS

& father-in-law Henry Rohr, 53 WI, parents b. US

1940 Coldwater, Comanche KS – in east Comanche Co. in 1935

N.D. King, 47 KS, farmer

Helen, 38 KS

Neva, 16 KS

Darlene, 9 KS

Richard, 7 KS

& father-in-law H.E. Raehr, 63 WI, city marshall, city